

## FERINTOSH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019 IN MULBUIE HALL

**MEMBERS:** Sally Falconer, Adam Fletcher, Colin Lawrence (Treasurer), Roslind MacNaughton, Iain McCallum, Bruce Morrison (Secretary), Becky Richmond (Chair), Eilidh Richmond.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 3 residents.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Craig Fraser, PC John MacPherson, 2 residents.

**POLICE MATTERS:** PC John MacPherson sent in a report of one traffic incident in late October on the A9 at Duncanston with a driver reported for careless driving. Cllr Adam will pursue with other community councils FCC's persistent thought about a 50mph pilot on the Black Isle.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** As near neighbours, Becky and Eilidh declared an interest in the planning application at Mount Eagle and declared an interest in the application at Upper Braefindon and will not take part in any relevant discussions. As a CCT Director, Bruce will take no part in discussions about the development of the Glascairn site.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** (excluding actions carried out, carried forward and those considered later in the agenda): **Street name** for Glascairn development has formally been confirmed as Baluachraich; **Dingwall Medical Group** held its first liaison meeting with Community Councils (6 attended) but minutes not yet available for accurate feedback. Bruce presented a view that FCC and DMG should work to find efficient ways of bringing some medical services into the community e.g. flu vaccinations, technology enabled care; **Alcaig Phone Box:** has been given a one year reprieve due to poor mobile reception; **Crask Junction:** Bruce attended the residents' celebration of the opening carried out by former councillor, Isobel McCallum, and greatly appreciated the tea and cakes hospitality; **Abilitynet:** volunteer has visited the resident's house with Becky in attendance to provide some personal support. For the future, FCC should check out bona fides of service organisations new to the area.

**MINUTES:** Last month's minutes were approved (proposed by Colin, seconded by Sally) and duly adopted.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Colin reported on just two transactions this month (£18 for Ferintosh Hall hire and £21 for paper for Noticeboard) leaving a balance of £5003. FCC has received notification from THC that the £200 for grass cutting is being transferred. Becky has agreed to become the third cheque signatory (added to Bruce and Iain) and the bank mandate has been submitted. Colin will close the account on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Ferintosh Senior Citizens lunch: a request has been received for financial support and £50 was approved.

Roger Piercy has stood down from managing the whole Noticeboard newsletter system after 25 years and FCC wished to extend its sincere thanks for an enormous community effort. A gift to the value of £75 will be organised together with a social gathering of all volunteers involved in Noticeboard. Catering will be provided both voluntarily and commercially and FCC agreed to underwrite costs up to a maximum of £100.

**CORRESPONDENCE and REQUESTS:** **Residents** reported a barrier across the pathway between Raven Croft and Fowlers Croft. THC's Access Officer has visited and agreed it has no purpose. He has written to the landowner of Fowlers Croft and given them 14 days to remove; **Culbokie Active Travel Plan:** Becky was invited along to see the latest plans and asked if FCC would promote the upcoming consultations (FCC agreed); **Resident** reported repeated early morning noise from a bus coach on Findon Hall site but Findon Hall has resolved the situation; **Calico** has contacted FCC to suggest a security upgrade with an SSL certificate. Having taken advice, the upgrade seems more appropriate for those with heavy use of their websites so FCC agreed not to accept; **HSCHT** (Highland Small Communities Housing Trust), having been approached by a developer of the site adjacent to Fowlers Croft for support in principle, approached FCC for support in

principle. Since there are no details upon which to consult residents, FCC will reply simply in support of what is already approved in the local plan; **Resident** wrote in complaining about Noticeboard's front page coverage of the Alcaig efforts which they thought of lesser interest than more important issues elsewhere in the same area; **Resident** wrote in suggesting that, in future, community councillor candidates should have to provide some brief personal background; **Resident** reported on two road safety issues (flood and therefore icy patch on Greenleonachs road; ditch down from Crasky needing dredging): Becky will pursue.

#### **SERVICE REQUESTS:**

**Vegetation obscuring the road** down from Findon Hall has been cleared; Resident has reported **serious, deep potholes** in 2 locations on the B9169 east of Culbokie (Becky following up). Cllr Adam reported back that only £21K over a four year period was paid out in compensation for car damage caused by potholes.

**Flooding in Culbokie:** residents continue to receive no response or help from THC and Cllr Adam will follow up; **Drive around:** Ian Moncrieff has agreed to a review of the FCC territory in early 2020; **Poor sight lines at junctions /overgrown verges:** Becky has now collated all responses and is ready to send to THC.

**Road safety:** Rumble strips into Culbokie are to be considered by Ian Moncrieff (THC) as part of his involvement with CCT's Active Travel Plan for Culbokie. Ian has also agreed to look at the safety issues at the Knock na Fanaig bend.

#### **ACTIVE PROJECTS:**

**Community Liaison Group for Glascairn Development:** No activity this month.

**CCT Update - Glascairn Development:** CCT has its important resident consultation this month and will be reviewing the feedback before deciding on the detailed plans for both landscaping and the café/hub building.

**Buses/Community Transport:** Culbokie Action Group /FCC/Resolis CC met with David Beaton, the new Managing Director, Stagecoach Highlands, at the most recent quarterly review meeting. Main points emerging included steady use of the commuter service, improved reliability of the fleet, handling complaints, more detail on bus usage (re Resolis) and improving timetable details at bus stops. The next meeting, in Culbokie, is being brought forward to December in order to enable FCC/residents to provide early feedback about any timetable change proposals to begin in February.

Note from the AGM of Ross-shire Voluntary Action (now renamed Community Support and Information, Ross-shire) is that three years' funding has been secured for the Black Isle Community Car Scheme from THC.

**Undergrounding of electricity cables in Culbokie:** Iain has had discussions with CCT and all have agreed that the scale of the potential undergrounding project around the Glascairn site is much too big to be tackled by the relatively small funds available from SSE and will no longer be pursued.

**B9169/Mulbuie Speed Limit:** Colin reported from THC that no objections to the public consultation had been received and THC will now implement. The only comments to have been received were in support with requests to extend to the Ord Muir junction. Since that is in the Muir of Ord CC area, that could be a future joint campaign. Becky again thanked Colin for bringing this project to a successful conclusion and thanks to Cllr Angela MacLean were also expressed.

**Cromarty Firth Port Authority:** Becky /Eilidh attended the community council liaison meeting on 24 October. Future meetings will also welcome local Trusts and other community groups.

**Email list:** Numbers decreased by 3 names to 645. The community council election has enabled us to uncover the exact number of voters as 1700 (previously estimated at 1500). The current proportion on email is therefore now 38%. Renewed efforts will begin next year to continue increasing the numbers with the help of

Eilidh and Adam and hopefully the new community councillors. Becky is to join a CCT consultation with Fortrose Academy students to see how we can engage better with younger people.

**Meals on Wheels:** Ros reported that yet another resident had approached her and had been encouraged to become another volunteer supporter taking the number to 9 in the northern Black Isle area.

**Noticeboard:** Eilidh reported on the recent development of increasing Noticeboard first to 6 pages and then to 8 because increasing content was being received. This was being used as a trial for a relaunch next year with the new FCC where layout, font etc. would be refreshed and a standard 6 page issue would begin to contain wider news coverage.

**Black Isle Tourism Group:** Becky reported back from its latest strategy workshop that in addition to developing walking /cycling linked routes for the Black Isle that more, very local, information gathering would be attempted through community council representatives. Avoch, Knockbain and Cromarty have already agreed and FCC will discuss once formed.

**Community Council Elections:** Becky reported on FCC's delight at the extra support from nominees to take FCC into a contested election for the first time in its history. Becky wanted to particularly thank the four new nominees for coming forward and with at least five other residents agreeing to be approached over the next few years as co-opt replacements, should that prove necessary, FCC has simply never been in such a strong position to take up residents' concerns. Becky hoped that all residents would now take up their democratic right to select their nominees to represent them for the next four years of the FCC.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (only new information included):

Iain reported on the following planning applications:

Update on Objections lodged:

19/01628/PIP: Replacement house, Drummondreach Steading, Alcaig: Under consideration, will go to NPAC.

Comments lodged:

18/05853/FUL: New house, garage/house unit, large shed, Plot 15, The Cairns, Culbokie: Comment lodged on outside of shed. Awaiting decision.

19/02467/FUL: New house, 1 Fowlers Croft, Culbokie: GRANTED

19/03052/FUL & 18/05537/PIP: Eight acres development: awaiting decision. Transport Planning team objected but some transport and roads information has now been submitted.

New Application:

19/04377/FUL: New house, 9 Fowlers Croft, Culbokie: No comment

19/04590/FUL: New garage, Marish, Mount Eagle Drive, Culbokie: No comment

19/04684/FUL: New house, NE of bungalow, Tighnahinch, Alcaig: Comment in support of the concern about run off flooding.

19/04517/FUL: New house, Upper Braefindon, Badrain Farm Road: Comment to query this development in relation to Hinterland Policy.

**AOCB:** None

**INTERACTION WITH RESIDENTS:** Resident expressed his congratulations to FCC in stimulating a contested election with thanks to those standing down for their service. Idea for future ballots is that the pack could have contained some explanation of the role of a community council.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING (to form the new FCC only):** Monday 9 December, 7.30pm to 8pm, Ferintosh Hall.

Contact details for comments; to join the email list; to receive minutes electronically:

Bruce Morrison, Secretary, 01349 877127; [ferintoshcc30@gmail.com](mailto:ferintoshcc30@gmail.com), <http://ferintoshcc.co.uk>;  
<http://fb.me/Ferintosh>